

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Osborne County Courthouse

Other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

423 West Main Street

not for publication

Osborne

vicinity

state

Kansas

code KS

county Osborne

code 141

zip code 67473

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally X statewide \_\_\_\_\_ locally.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Pankut  
Signature of certifying official

3/5/02  
Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_ other, (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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## 5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a  
multiple property listing.)No. of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register:Historic County Courthouses of Kansas0

## 6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions.)Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions.)GOVERNMENT: County Courthouse  
  
  
GOVERNMENT: County Courthouse  
  
  

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions.)Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions.)LATE VICTORIAN: Richardsonian Romanesque  
  
Foundation STONE: Limestone  
Walls STONE: Limestone  
Roof OTHER: Asphalt Shingles  
  
Other 

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)



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## 8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.☐ B removed from its original location.☐ C a birthplace or a grave.☐ D a cemetery.☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.☐ F a commemorative property.☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE1907/08-50N/APOLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/AJ.C. Holland & Squires, ArchitectC. Cork, Contractor

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name Osborne County CourthouseCounty and State Osborne County, KansasPage 4**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing  
(36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings  
Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Specify repository:

Library and Archives Division, Kansas State  
Historical Society; Topeka, Kansas

Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property <1

UTM References

1	<u>1/4</u>	<u>5/2/5/7/2/0</u>	<u>4/3/6/5/1/9/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Dana Cloud and Sally F. Schwenkorganization Historic Preservation Services, LLC date April 30, 2000street & number 818 Grand Boulevard, Suite 1150 telephone (816) 221-5133city or town Kansas City state Missouri zip code 64106**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)name Osborne County street &number 423 West Main Street telephone (785) 346-2431 city or townOsborne state KS zip code 67473



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**DESCRIPTION**

The Osborne County Courthouse is a four-story, Richardsonian Romanesque style building that occupies the north half of a full square block that is two blocks west of the Osborne, Kansas historic central business center [*Figure 1: City Map of Osborne, Kansas*]. Historically, the courthouse occupied the full block. Between 1953 and 1978, the city erected a hospital complex on the south portion of the block and a jail on the west portion of the block just north of the courthouse.<sup>1</sup> Parking separates the courthouse and hospital and jail structures to the south. The primary façade faces north onto West Main Street. The courthouse is square in plan and measures approximately 70 feet wide by 70 feet deep by 55 feet high [*Figure 2: Existing Site Plan*]. The courthouse is rough-cut limestone with dressed limestone detailing, has a hip roof with dormers and a central clock tower. Because of the tower, the courthouse is the tallest building for miles. Arches that spring from squat columns define the entrances on the north, east and west façades [*Photographs #1 and #2*]. Except for the replacement of the original exterior doors, second-floor transoms, and third-floor wood windows, the courthouse has a high degree of architectural integrity and retains the majority of its original character-defining exterior and interior features. Erected in 1907–1908 as a county courthouse, the structure continues to serve as the county's courthouse.

The courthouse has ten bays on the north and south façades, and six bays on the east and west façades. There are four recessed central bays on the second and third floors on the north façade, with the two central bays rising to form the clock tower. The two central bays on the east and west façades project and rise to front-gable wall dormers incorporating rows of arched windows flanked by chimneys. The six central bays of the south elevation project approximately ten feet and feature a central chimney. Dressed limestone highlights wide belt courses at the sills of the first- and second-floor windows, as well as the cornice line and entrance arches. The use of rough-cut limestone in conjunction with smooth, dressed limestone adds textures to the overall appearance of the structure.

Single-glazed, fixed, metal frame windows replace the original arched and rectangular, second-floor transoms as well as the third-floor wood window frames and sashes. Metal, double-hung sash, storm windows cover the remaining, intact, wood frame, one-over-one light, double-hung sash windows. The addition of window air-conditioning units somewhat compromises the exterior appearance; however, these can be removed without altering the original window units.

The courthouse has three public entrances defined by arches that spring from squat columns with flattened Corinthian capitals [*Photograph #7*]. The primary entrance at the north façade features a balcony off the recessed central bays of the second floor. The entrance frontispiece, which is inscribed with "Osborne 1907," rises to form the parapet wall of the balcony. Half-height limestone walls flank the stairs to the primary entrance and form newels with "sphinx-like" figures with a lion's head on one side and a woman's head on the other [*Photograph #3*]. The lion, as lord of the pride, is symbolic of Justice. The woman's face on the west newel is that of the

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<sup>1</sup> The Osborne, Kansas Geological Survey Map, prepared in 1953 and revised in 1979 according to 1978 aerial photographs, determined the dates of construction for the hospital complex and jail.



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gorgon Medusa, a mythological symbol of fear and terror. In this context, the figures reference the consequences of defying justice.<sup>2</sup> Access to the east and west entrances is by exterior staircases with side stairs that rise to a central landing at the arched opening. A chairlift is located at the east entrance.

The hip roof has asphalt shingles and features six parapeted, gable front dormers, with one each on the east and west façades, and two each on the north and south façades. The north and south dormers contain a pair of rectangular windows with separate transom windows, and the east and west dormers have two pairs of Romanesque arched windows [*Photographs #4 and #5*]. A clock tower, which has a hip roof, turrets, parapet, and gable front dormers, rises from the central bays of the north façade. The south façade of the clock tower features the image of an early town pioneer and stone mason, John Winland,<sup>3</sup> who played an influential role in the construction of the courthouse [*Photographs # 6 and #8*]. The clock, run by a 200-pound weight, has a striking mechanism run by a 100-pound weight and a 1,800-pound cast copper alloy bell. The mechanism was restored in 1975 as part of the national bicentennial.

The floor plan is typical of many early twentieth century Kansas courthouses. Access to the first floor, which houses the main county offices such as the county clerk and register of deeds, is by exterior stairs at the north, east and west entrances. Once inside, two interior staircases at the north side of the building serve each floor, which have east-west corridors [*Photographs #9 and #10*]. The second floor houses a courtroom, judge's office, clerk of the district court, jury room and probationer's office [*Photograph #12*]. The courthouse historically housed the jail; however, between 1953 and 1979 the county commissioners erected a detached jail to the west of the courthouse on the Courthouse Square.<sup>4</sup> A handicapped accessible elevator, installed in the mid-1990s, serves each floor.<sup>5</sup>

The interior finishes are also typical of those found in other Kansas courthouses built in the early twentieth century. The staircases have oak handrails and iron frames [*Photograph #10*]. The corridors feature mosaic floor tiles and marble wainscoting with oak chair rails. Other interior finishes include oak doors and trim, and plaster walls. Acoustical ceiling tiles conceal the original plaster ceilings [*Photographs #9 and #11*].

The Osborne County Courthouse has excellent architectural integrity despite the minor alterations that include fixed, single-glazed windows replacing the second-floor transom and third-floor wood windows. Metal frame doors with multi-pane surrounds fill the original entrance arches. Alterations in the 1990s to meet federal accessibility guidelines resulted in: the combination of two second-floor restrooms into one, unisex, handicapped accessible toilet; the renovation to the restrooms on the main floor and in the basement; the installation of

<sup>2</sup> Interview by Pamela Kingsbury, Kansas, member Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review with Von Rothenburg, Osborne, Kansas conveyed via e-mail to Cathy Ambler, Kansas State Historical Society, 17 December, 2000.

<sup>3</sup> The carved face of Winland, the lion and Medusa are attributed to an unknown stone carver who executed the masks of comedy and tragedy on the Riley County Courthouse and gargoyles on the Marion County Courthouse.

<sup>4</sup> Vertical Files, Kansas State Historical Society, Handwritten Notes.

<sup>5</sup> HUD, Section 106, Review and Compliance Tracking Form No. 141-4230-0004, KSR&C No. 93-11-076 for handicapped access improvements discussed the installation of an elevator in 1993-1994. It is the assumption of the author that the installation of the current elevator occurred thereafter.

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automatic door operators; the replacement of corridor door hardware; the removal and replacement of original water fountains on the first and second floors; the remodeling of the jury room gate; the replacement of five thresholds; and the installation of an elevator.

However, the overall appearance of the exterior is not compromised as the remaining original exterior features, such as the masonry walls, extant, wood, double-hung sash windows, arched frontispieces, roofline, clock tower, and ornamental treatments remain intact. On the interior, acoustical ceiling tiles conceal the original plaster ceilings. The original staircases with oak handrails and iron frames, mosaic floor tiles, marble wainscoting, oak doors, and floor plan are intact. Moreover, the Osborne County Courthouse is in excellent condition as a result of the care and attention given to the maintenance of the structure by a succession of county commissioners. The construction of a jail and a hospital complex to the east and south (respectively) of the original courthouse site impacts the historic setting [*Figure 2: Existing Site Plan*]. Because the hospital is at the rear of the lot, and there is sufficient buffer space to visually separate it and the one-story jail from the courthouse building proper, the courthouse continues to successfully convey its feelings and associations with its period of construction.



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**PHOTO LOG**

**Photographer:** Dana Cloud  
**Date of Photographs:** December 13, 1999  
**Location of Negatives:** Kansas State Historical Society  
Cultural Resources Division  
6425 S.W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099

Photo #	Subject	Camera Direction
1.	Exterior of Courthouse	Southwest
2.	Exterior of Courthouse	Northeast
3.	Detail of North (Main) Entrance	South
4.	Detail of Dormer at East Facade	West
5.	Detail of Dormer at South Facade	North
6.	Detail of Clock Tower at South Facade	North
7.	Detail of Truncated Corner Pilaster at East Entrance	West
8.	Detail of Clock Tower at North and East Facades	Southwest
9.	Main Corridor on First Floor	West
10.	Starting Newell of East Staircase	Northeast
11.	Entrance to Main Courtroom on Second Floor	South
12.	Main Courtroom on Second Floor	West



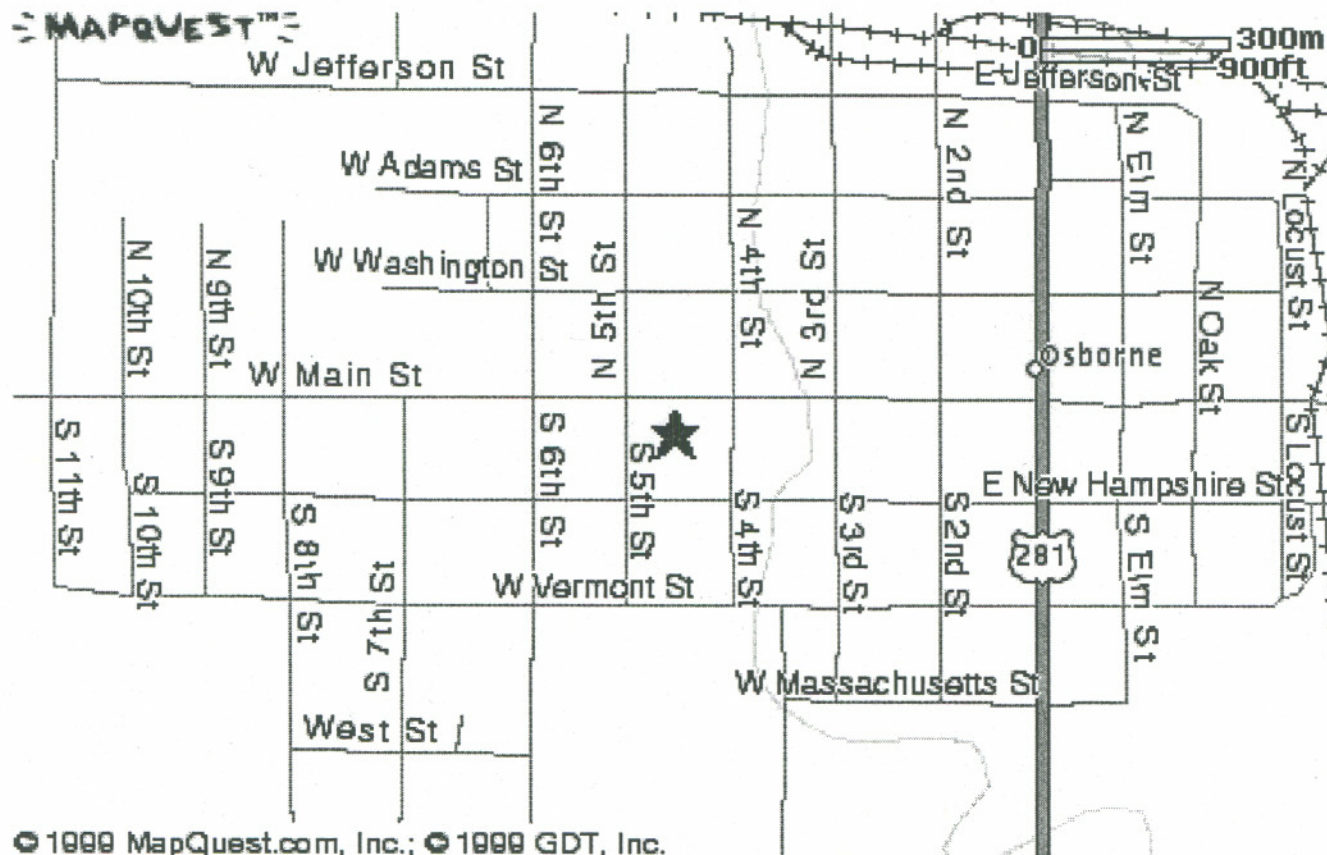
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**Figure 1: City Map of Belleville, Kansas**



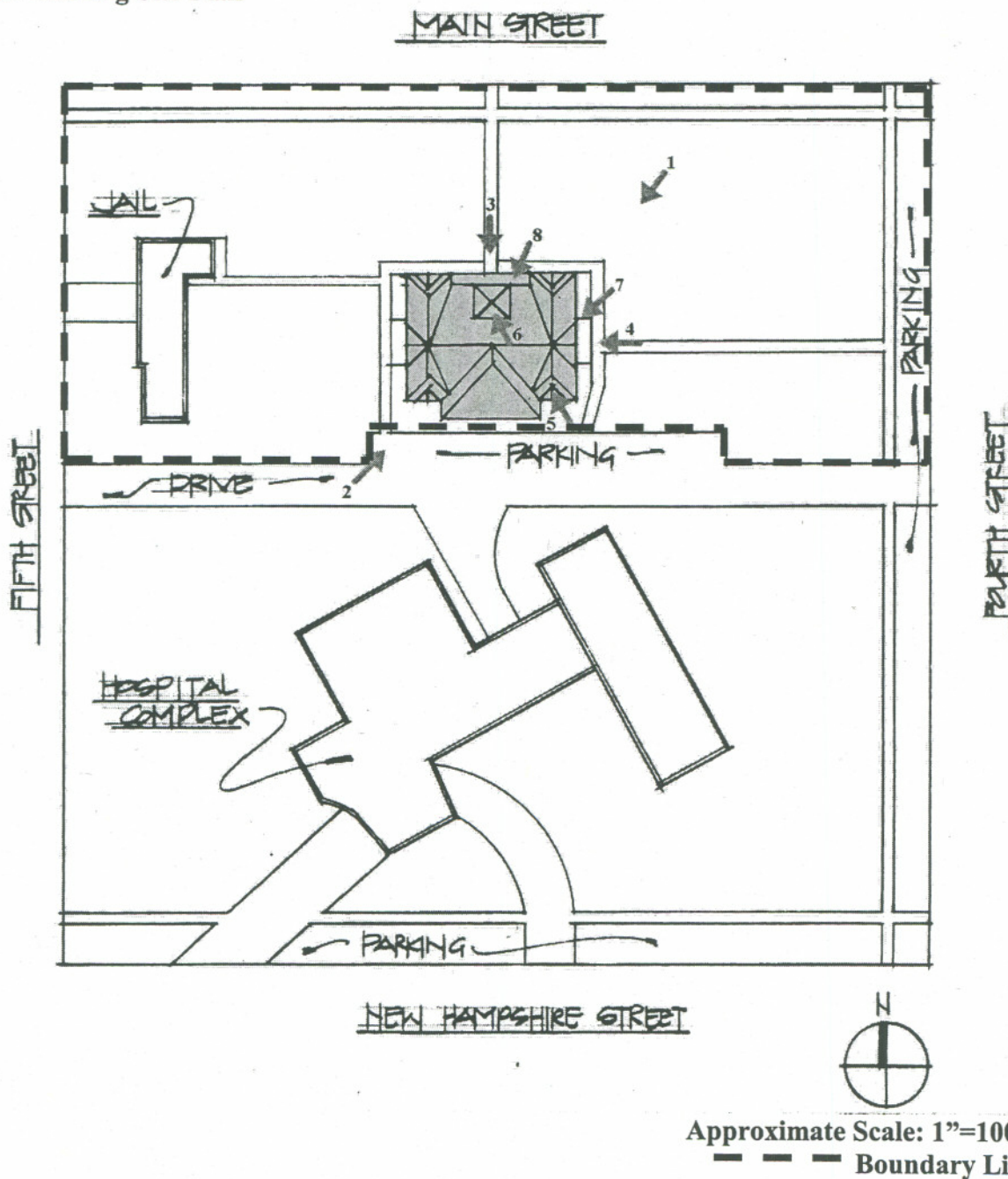
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**Figure 2: Existing Site Plan**





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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Osborne County Courthouse erected in 1907–1908 is historically significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of **POLITICS/GOVERNMENT** and under Criterion C in the area of **ARCHITECTURE** for its associations with the development of county courthouses in Kansas and with J.C. Holland, an influential Kansas architect who designed and supervised the construction of a significant number of Kansas county courthouses in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The historic significance of the Osborne County Courthouse is based on its associations with the history and development of Kansas county courthouses that are documented in the Multiple Property Form, **“Historic County Courthouses of Kansas.”** In particular, the property has direct associations to the historic contexts established in the Multiple Property Form—**“The Role of the County Courthouse in Kansas Communities 1856–1950,” “Twentieth Century Kansas County Courthouses and Their Changing Use: 1900–1950,”** and the **“Architecture of Kansas Courthouses 1861–1950.”** The property’s association with the evolution of Kansas County Courthouses and their design date to its construction in 1907–1908 and continues to 2000, the arbitrary 50-year cutoff date for determining eligibility of National Register properties. This property reflects typical courthouse plans, siting and Richardsonian Romanesque designs found in Kansas in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. In addition to the property’s retention of association and location, it has a high degree of architectural integrity and is a representative example of its property type. It exemplifies the work of a master courthouse architect noted for his Kansas courthouse designs. The property type and larger historic contexts relating to the significance of the Osborne County Courthouse are fully documented in the Multiple Property Form. The following commentary expands upon these larger contextual themes as they specifically relate to the Osborne County Courthouse and documents the property’s significance.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE:**

Osborne County is located in north central Kansas approximately 30 miles from the Kansas-Nebraska state line. It includes six small towns: Osborne, the county seat; Downs; Portis; Bloomington; Alton; and Natoma. Located in the center of the county on an unpaved road is the abandoned town site of Covert. Highway 281, along which runs the Solomon River, runs north and south through the middle of the county. Highway 24 runs east and west through the middle of the county. Both highways run through Osborne.

An election on November 7, 1871 determined the town of Osborne as the county seat, with Osborne receiving 126 votes; Arlington, 41 votes; Tilden (now Bloomington), 30 votes; and Emley City, 18 votes. The same election approved the issuing of \$2,000 in bonds for the management of the county. Typical of early county battles over the location of the county seat, Arlington petitioned for a second election and on March 19, 1872; Osborne won 225 of the 458 votes. Since the outcome did not have the required majority vote, a third election on April 2, 1872 ultimately determined Osborne as the county seat. Shortly thereafter on April 4, 1872, the district court held its first term session in Osborne. County officials included Judge A.S. Wilson; county attorney, H.H. Napier; county clerk, C.J. Watson; and sheriff, C.M. Cunningham. Initially, the court held sessions in the post office and elected officials conducted county business out of their residences.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A. Saxey, “A Sketch of Osborne County from its Earliest Settlement to the Present Day,” *The Farmer* (13 March 1879): 3–4. Vertical Files, Kansas State Historical Society.



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As a result of acquiring the title of county seat, Osborne became the commercial center of the county. At this time, approximately a dozen houses stood in Osborne. During the next year, the county's population grew from 2,200 to 2,873 people, most of whom settled in Osborne. The county commissioners approved the construction of a two-story, stone courthouse that measured 30 feet by 50 feet.<sup>2</sup> It served as the county's courthouse until June 1876 when a storm destroyed the building's primary façade. A later storm removed the building's roof and the county commissioners determined the courthouse unsuitable to house county functions.<sup>3</sup> In 1879, the county commissioners erected a two-story, wood, frame, Italianate style structure at a cost of \$1,700. This structure served as the county courthouse until the county commissioners erected the current Richardsonian Romanesque style courthouse in 1907-1908.<sup>4</sup>

In March of 1907, the Osborne County Commissioners chose the architectural firm of J.C. Holland & Squires of Topeka, Kansas to design the current courthouse. According to a newspaper article, J.C. Holland estimated the construction budget to be \$50,000.<sup>5</sup> Holland's contract stipulated that the firm would not receive a commission unless the project was brought in at the budgeted costs. The following September, the county hosted a program to lay the cornerstone. In January of 1908, a fund-raising campaign to purchase the tower clock was well underway. The clock, which the Howard Watch Company built for \$1,450, operated for the first time on May 28, 1908.<sup>6</sup> The following September a dedication ceremony officially opened the courthouse.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The courthouse is significant under Criterion A as an example of the second and third generation courthouses erected in a wave of new courthouse construction that occurred in the early twentieth century in Kansas. These buildings replaced aged and obsolete courthouse buildings erected in the state's earlier settlement period. Its level of physical and architectural integrity and the retention of its physical associations with the original site enable it to convey its appearance and functions during the period of its construction. Its size and plan have direct associations with the evolution of local governmental needs met by the county courthouses in agrarian counties in Kansas during the early twentieth century.

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Osborne County Courthouse is significant under Criterion C as a representative example of the Kansas county courthouses designed by noted courthouse architect James C. Holland and his firm J.C. Holland & Squires, of Topeka, Kansas. As documented in the Multiple Property Form, James C. Holland is one of the state's foremost designers of courthouses from 1899 to 1917. The body of his work reflects the continued

<sup>2</sup> Author Unknown, "Cent. Address and Sketches of History of Osborne, County," *The Farmer* (7 July 1876): 185-86. Vertical Files, Kansas State Historical Society

<sup>3</sup> Saxey, 3-4.

<sup>4</sup> Author Unknown, "A List of the Building Improvements in the City of Osborne," *The Farmer* (4 September 1879): 208-209. Vertical Files, Kansas State Historical Society.

<sup>5</sup> Author Unknown, Vertical Files, Kansas State Historical Society, Newspaper Article.

<sup>6</sup> W.W. McDanel, "Courthouse Clock Now Operating," (20 March 1975). Vertical Files, Kansas State Historical Society.



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popularity in Kansas of the Romanesque Revival style in courthouse design in the early decades of the twentieth century and the shift, before World War I, to Classical Revival styles.

Charles W. Squires came to Emporia, Kansas in 1879. During his early career in the state, he worked on residences and commercial buildings. An established architect by the 1880s, Squires designed schools, commercial buildings, hotels, and institutional buildings in and around Emporia and Osage City, Kansas. In 1903, he joined Holland's firm.<sup>7</sup>

Frank C. Squires was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1871. He received three years training at the Topeka Art School and studied for eight years in the offices of architects J.C. Holland in Topeka, Kansas, W. S. Epperson in Sedalia, Missouri, and J. G. Haskell in Topeka, Kansas. He then went to work with J.C. Holland beginning in 1898.<sup>8</sup>

The Osborne County Courthouse is one of nine extant courthouses in Kansas designed by Holland, eight of which are executed in the Richardson Romanesque style, an idiom for which Holland and his firms became noted [*Figure 3: Representative Examples of Kansas Courthouses Designed by J.C. Holland*]. The firm of J.C. Holland & Squires designed four Kansas courthouses between 1905 and 1907: Osborne County (1907–1908), Marion County (1905–1907), Riley County (1905–1906), and Thomas County (1906–1907) [*Figure 4: Representative Examples of Kansas Courthouses Designed by J.C. Holland & Squires*]. The courthouses are identical in design, with the exception of the use of red brick for the Thomas County Courthouse as opposed to rough-cut limestone. Each courthouse is a four-story, Richardsonian Romanesque style structure with ten bays on the primary and rear façades and six bays on the side façades. Arches that spring from squat columns define the primary and side entrances. The four central bays of the primary façades recess to form a balcony. The two central bays of the primary façades rise to form a clock tower. Each courthouse has a hipped roof that features six parapeted, gabled wall dormers (one each on the side façades and two each on the primary and rear façades). As a courthouse that retains all of these features, the Osborne County Courthouse is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style courthouses designed by J.C. Holland & Squires between 1905 and 1907.

The Osborne County Courthouse is also architecturally significant for its retention of its original floor plan configuration and hierarchy of space that is typical of many early twentieth century courthouses in Kansas. These courthouses have three or four floors that have a hierarchy of functions located off a main corridor and accessed by two or more staircases. The ground floor is either at grade or slightly below grade and houses auxiliary operations such as the boiler room, facility manager's offices, toilets, and storage. The finishes of this floor are often not as elaborate as the upper, more public floors. The first floor, which is the most highly utilized floor, is generally elevated from grade level and approached by an exterior grand staircase. The first floor houses offices frequently utilized by the public such as those of the county clerk, register of deeds, county treasurer, engineer, appraiser and county commissioners' offices. The second floor houses the courtroom, judge's office, jury room, and the sheriff and court clerk's offices. The courtroom is nearly always on the opposite side of the primary entrance, facing a central grand staircase, and is 1½ or two stories in height. The third floor is typically not as

<sup>7</sup> S. T. Andreas. 566.

<sup>8</sup> Howard D. Berrett, *Who's Who in Topeka* (Topeka: Adams Brothers, Publishers, 1905), 114; and *Bulletin of Shawnee County Historical Society*, Vol. 33, page 42.

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obvious from the exterior and is occasionally part of the roofline. The third floor historically housed the jail, although many new sheriff and jail annexes replaced those functions, leaving space to expand in the original courthouse. This is the case with the Osborne County Courthouse. The Osborne County Courthouse retains this hierarchy of space and its ground floor through second floor configurations.



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**Figure 3: Representative Examples of Kansas Courthouses Designed by J.C. Holland**



Clay County 1900–1901



Geary County 1899–1900



Mitchell County 1901–1902



Ness County 1917–1918



Rice County 1910–1911

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**Figure 4: Representative Examples of Kansas Courthouses Designed by J.C. Holland & Squires**



Marion County 1905–1907



Riley County 1905–1906



Thomas County 1906–1907



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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of the nominated property is the portion of Block 11 in the Original Town Site of Osborne, Osborne County, Kansas that includes the following: on the south, a line beginning at and horizontal to the northern boundary of the parking lot running between Fourth Street and Fifth Street; on the west, the eastern boundary of Fifth Street running between the southern boundary and Main Street; on the north, the southern boundary of Main Street running between Fifth Street and Fourth Street; and on the east, the western boundary of Fourth Street running between the southern boundary and Main Street.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary of the nominated property is based on the area of Block 11 that has a traditional courthouse function. Natural boundaries are provided by Fifth Street, Main Street, Fourth Street, and an arbitrary line on the

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south that runs east and west and is parallel to the northern boundary of the parking lot. The remainder of Block 11 traditionally had county functions; however, between 1953 and 1978 the county constructed a Hospital Complex that severely impacted the historical integrity of the rear portion of the block. This area, therefore, is not included in the boundaries.



OSBORNE COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE

OSBORNE, OSBORNE  
CO., KANSAS

UTM NO:

141525720/4365190

